

REMARKS

Claims 15-52 are pending. The Applicants thank Examiner Wong for the courteous and helpful interview of October 20, 2003. It was indicated that the claims defined over the prior art and the Applicants were encouraged to revise the claim language for clarity. The Applicants pointed out a typographical error, which rendered the term “acetalated” as “acetylated”. It is believed that correction of this error resolves many of the indefiniteness issues raised in the Official Action. Other clarifying changes were also discussed and appear in the above amendment. Favorable consideration and allowance of this application is now respectfully requested.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. The term “acetylated” has been corrected to --acetalated--. Support for the term “acetalated” is found in PCT/EP00/07026 at page 1, line 35. As discussed, the claim set has been revised for clarity. Accordingly, the Applicants do not believe that any new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 49 was objected to for containing an informality. This objection is moot in view of the amendment of Claim 49.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 15-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is moot in view of the above amendments to the claims. The Applicants believe that the correction and replacement of the term “acetylated” with “acetalated” and the clarifying changes presented above address these rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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